T-shaped projections 177 that are caused to protrude from the bottom surface 175 of the housing 102, so that the bent part 172 is anchored to the bottom surface 175 of the housing 102.

Referring to Figure 6, an opening 123 is formed on the inside of the face plate 120 in a position corresponding to the above-mentioned engaging recess 104. Spring contact parts 126 are formed by being bent from the upper and lower inside edges 124 of the opening 123 at specified intervals so that these spring contact parts 126 enter the interior of the engaging recess 104. On the lower side, four spring contact parts 126 are formed at substantially equal intervals, while on the upper side, two spring contact parts each are formed in positions located closer to both ends of the opening 123. Between the two spring contact parts 126 positioned to the inside on the upper side, an inside extension part 168 which extends into the interior of the engaging recess 104 is formed by being bent from the top wall 130 of the shell 106 at the front surface 116 of the housing 102. An anchoring projection 170 is caused to protrude into the interior of the engaging recess 104 from the inside surface 168a of the inside extension part 168. This anchoring projection 170 forms a locking part that engages with the engaging hole 54 of the latching arm 44 of the male connector 1 at the time of engagement with the male connector 1, thus maintaining the connectors in a mutually engaged state. The anchoring projection 170 has electrical continuity with the shell 106, and the engaging hole 54 of the latching arm 44 of the male connector that engages with the anchoring projection 170 also has electrical continuity with the shell 4 of the male connector 1. Accordingly, when the female connector 100 is engaged with the male connector 1 by the spring contact parts 126 and the locking part, contact is made with the shell 4 of the male connector 1, so

that an integral shield is formed between the two connectors 1 and 100.

The lower-side spring contact parts 126 are disposed at equal intervals, while the upper-side spring contact parts 126 have a large intermediate space. However, since the anchoring projection 170 constitutes a contact part of the shield in the same manner as the spring contact parts 126, the spacing between the contact parts is substantially the same in both cases. In this case, the portions of the shell 4 of the male connector 1 that contact the spring contact parts 126, i.e. the contact surfaces of the shell 4, constitute contact parts. Accordingly, the contact between the shell 4 and the shell 106 is accomplished via contact parts that are disposed at the same intervals, so that there is no drop in the shielding performance. Furthermore, since the size of the locking part is extremely small and since the latching arm 44 is accommodated inside the female connector 100, the electrical connector assembly can also be made compact.

In the embodiment described, an engaging hole 54 was formed in the latching arm 44, and an anchoring projection 170 was formed on the shielding shell 106 of the female connector 100. However, the reverse construction could also be used. Specifically, it would also be possible to form an anchoring projection on the latching arm 44 and to form an engaging hole in the shielding shell.